

ABSTRACT

A method of directing a computer network for booting using a prebooting execution environment (PXE) embedded OS based computer is provided in which the embedded OS based computer listens for PXE requests from PXE enabled target servers of the network and in response provides a netboot program and address information of a boot server. An embodiment of an embedded OS based computer is provided that has a network interface controller, a microcontroller, a display, an input device, and a processor. An embodiment of a system for booting a computer network using the embedded OS based computer is provided. The system has a target network of PXE enabled servers coupled to the embedded OS based computer and a boot server coupled to the embedded OS based computer and to the network. The system and the method are illustrated using Windows CE operating system as an example an embedded OS.